

LESSON 7

GENERAL INVITATION TO ISLAM

Third Year of Prophethood

Rasulullah (S) had been receiving *Wahi* continuously. It told him that Islam was chosen by Allah as the last religion for all mankind. He was Allah's last prophet and he was asked by Allah, "So proclaim that (Islam) which you are commanded to proclaim, and keep away from idolators." (*al-Hijr* 15:94).

One day, Rasulullah (S) invited everyone in Makkah to come to the hill of Safa. He wanted to tell them of a great danger which the Makkans faced because of their *Kufr* and *Shirk*. The hill of Safa is close to Kabah. Rasulullah (S) stood up on the hill of Safa and asked the people, "What do you think of me?"

Everyone responded "You are *al-Sadiq* (the truthful one) and *al-Amin* (trustworthy one)."

Then Rasulullah (S) asked, "Would you believe me if I tell you that there is an army behind this mountain which is ready to attack you?"

"Yes, of course, we will. You have always spoken the truth. You have always held our trust." The people answered.

"Then listen!" Rasulullah (S) said. "I warn you of even greater danger. There will be a Day of Judgment. You will be judged for your beliefs and actions. I invite you to believe in Allah. Give up your idols. Give up your evil practices. And do good deeds."

These people did not like these ideas. They loved their idols. The rich Quraish were used to their evil ways and did not believe that anybody has a right to judge them. They were angry with Rasulullah (S).

One of Muhammad's uncles, Abu Lahab, who did not believe in Islam said, "Is that what you wanted to tell us? You have wasted our time."

Though people respected Rasulullah (S) for his truth and honesty, it did not help him. Some people thought he was insane to talk of such unheard-of things. No one was willing to accept his call. Now people started spreading all kinds of false rumours about him.

On another day Rasulullah (S) invited all his relatives for a dinner. After dinner Rasulullah stood up and addressed his guests in these words, "O members of my family, and chiefs of the Quraish. Today I am going to speak to you about something that no Arab youth has ever spoken. If you will follow it you will receive the well-being of this world and the hereafter."

His guests were very pleased to hear his remarks. They asked him eagerly, "What is it, O Muhammad, that could benefit us in this world as well as in the hereafter?"

Rasulullah (S) said, "Say with me, *La ilaha illa Allah* (There is no god but Allah). You will benefit in both worlds."

His cousin, Ali, who was thirteen years old was the only one who stood up and promised to help Rasulullah (S). Other relatives became annoyed and left him.

One day, Rasulullah (S) went to Kabah and openly invited people to accept the teaching of Islam. The *Kuffar* had gathered there to worship their idols. They were enraged by his remarks and attacked him. His life was saved but one of his *Sahabi*, Harith bin Hala (R), was killed by the *Kuffar*.

As Rasulullah (S) began to preach openly, more and more Makkans opposed him and became his enemies. Some *Kuffar* became the worst enemies of Rasulullah (S) and the Muslims. The *Kuffar* were rich and powerful. Their wealth and power made them proud and obstinate.

In the beginning, there were only a few converts; most of them were weak and poor. Rasulullah (S) and his *Sahabah* (R) had a very difficult task ahead of them.

Point of review:

1. Allah asked Rasulullah (S) to invite all the Makkans to accept Islam.
2. Rasulullah (S) invited the Makkans to the hill of Safa and spoke to them about the dangers of the hereafter.
3. He started inviting the Makkans to Islam publicly, but most people became angry at him and hostile to him.

Words to remember:

Kuffar, respond, task.

Important names

Abu Lahab, Harith bin Hala (R), Safa.

Quranic Study

Read *Surah al-Lail* 92. It describes two kinds of people: Those faithful to Allah and the proud independent ones. What are the characteristics of each group?

This, in fact, was the division of Muslims and *Kuffar* in Makkah.

